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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Global geodetic reference frame

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on the global geodetic reference frame, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made by the working group, including its transition to a subcommittee and the development of an implementation plan for the road map on the global geodetic reference frame.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/102, in which it commended the considerable efforts of the working group in preparing the road map on the global geodetic reference frame as a principle-based briefing document for Governments. The Committee of Experts welcomed the development of an implementation plan to ensure that the recommendations contained in the road map were linked to national policy developments in the area of geodesy. Recognizing the critical importance of an appropriate governance structure to effectively implement the road map, the Committee of Experts supported the establishment of a subcommittee on geodesy to provide stability and longer-term planning for the global geodetic reference frame and requested that the subcommittee determine its modalities and methods of work, including assuming the roles of the existing working group.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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In its report, the working group, as the interim subcommittee on geodesy, provided an account of progress made on the development of an implementation plan for the road map, inclusive of the outreach and communication that has taken place. It also described the development of appropriate modalities, including terms of reference and methods of work, for the new subcommittee on geodesy and the interactions with each of the chairs of the five regional committees of the Committee of Experts in formulating the membership of the subcommittee.